
DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

N. Gautreaux

SB No. 235

Present law (R.S. 33:381(B) and 385.1) requires that the chief of police in municipalities governed by the Lawrason Act (mayor-board of aldermen form of government) be elected at large and an elector of the municipality.

Present law (R.S. 33:381.1) alternatively authorizes appointment of the chief of police by the mayor with the approval of the board of aldermen when authorized by a majority of the electors of the municipality. Requires presentation of a petition, signed by at least 25% of such electors, prior to holding a special election on the question.

Present law provides for specific exceptions to the above provisions by providing that in certain municipalities the office of chief of police shall or may be made appointive by a variety of different methods.

Present law (R.S. 33:381.2) also authorizes the governing authority of each municipality with a population of 5,000 or less to call a special election to authorize the appointment or election of the police chief. Such election shall be called only upon the adoption of an ordinance by a two-thirds vote of the governing authority.

Proposed law retains present law and additionally provides that the police chief of the town of Duson shall be elected or appointed as provided in present law (R.S. 33:381.2). Provides that the police chief's term shall be concurrent with that of the mayor and aldermen. Requires the board of aldermen to establish the salary, duties, responsibilities, and qualifications of the office of police chief. Further requires the police chief to have two years of full time law enforcement experience and to successfully complete a certified training program approved by the Council on Peace Officers Standards and Training. Additionally requires the chief to successfully pass a council approved comprehensive examination within one calendar year from the date of initial employment. Provides that the mayor shall supervise the police chief and requires the chief to report directly to the mayor

Effective upon signature of governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Adds R.S. 33:381(C)(29))

Summary of Amendments Adopted by Senate

Committee Amendments Proposed by Senate Committee on Local and Municipal Affairs to the original bill.

1. Provides for the term of office for the police chief of Duson.

Senate Floor Amendments to engrossed bill.

1. Makes technical corrections.

Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

Committee Amendments Proposed by House Committee on Municipal, Parochial and Cultural Affairs to the reengrossed bill.

1. Removes provisions of proposed law that provide that the police chief of the town of Duson shall be appointed by the mayor upon approval by a majority vote of the board of aldermen. Provides instead that the police chief shall be elected or appointed upon approval by majority of qualified voters of the town at a special election called upon the adoption of an ordinance by a two-

thirds vote of the board of aldermen as provided in present law (R.S. 33:381.2). Additionally provides for qualifications for the office of police chief.